IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Ziech et al.

Serial No.:

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Group Art Unit:

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Examiner:

Toan, T.

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GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed December 24, 2003.

AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

Certificate of Express Mailing

I hereby certify that this Reply Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EU936173206US, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 24th day of March 2004.

Mary F. Pertie